

held positions with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Bishkek Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of Kyrgyzstan, and the Sarajevo Philharmonic. He was the first American to conduct the Vietnam National Symphony.

When he founded his orchestra in 2000, Mr. Ansbacher placed the word "landmarks" in its title to signal his belief in the connection between his music and the locations where it was created. During that period he also developed his public policy interests, serving as a White House Fellow and co-chairing a U.S. Department of Transportation task force that advocated for the use of federal funds to build a presence for the arts within the mass transit system. As he was involved with his work, he met my dear friend, Swanee Hunt, whom he later married and accompanied to Vienna when she was appointed U.S. ambassador to Austria. There he worked as a guest conductor, and began his relationship with the Sarajevo Philharmonic.

Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Ansbacher's wife of 25 years, said: "Concerts, audience members, and passengers can be counted, but the impact of his ideas is incalculable. He imagined opportunities where others saw barriers. How many of us have dreamed bolder dreams, reached unimaginably farther, because of his stubborn encouragement and prodding? Our work is an extension of his work—no, of his life."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Thirtieth District of Texas and North Texas community, I am honored to commend the life of an astounding man, Charles Ansbacher.

TRIBUTE TO MARIO OBLEDO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I along with Representatives DORIS MATSUI, LAURA RICHARDSON, GRACE NAPOLITANO, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, CHARLES GONZALEZ, JUDY CHU, SOLOMON ORTIZ, and LINDA SANCHEZ rise to pay tribute to a great citizen, civil rights leader and humanitarian, Mario Obledo. A long time crusader for justice, Mario died of a heart attack on Aug. 18, 2010 at the age of 78, in his home in Sacramento, California.

Mario was a trailblazer, some referred to him as the "Godfather of the Latino Civil Rights Movement." A symbol of activism, he took on employment discrimination, advocated for affirmative action and encouraged bilingual education. Mario was committed to ending all forms of racial injustice, and served as a respected advocate for his community.

Throughout his legal career Mario desegregated schools, reformed jury selection, integrated swimming pools, and took down signs barring Mexicans from entering businesses. In one famous case, he defeated a utility company with a height requirement that prohibited hiring anyone with an accent.

Mario was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1932 to Concepcion Guerra and Jesus Obledo, immigrants who migrated to the United States during the Mexican Revolution. As a child he grew up in a tiny house off a dirt road and slept on the floor with his 12 siblings.

Mario's father died when he was five. His family often had to hustle to support itself, but

Mario was encouraged by supportive adults to stay in school. His mother repeated to him, "teachers are second to God." The pharmacist he worked for since the age of 12 urged him to go to college.

Mario served in the Navy during the Korean War and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1957 with a pharmacy degree. Working as a pharmacist, he put himself through law school and graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1960.

Mario believed his greatest achievement was opening doors of employment to Latinos. He taught law at Harvard University and is credited with encouraging Latinos to enter state government.

Mario served as President of the National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations before he passed. He had a long and illustrious career in public service, working as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, and later appointed head of the California Health and Welfare Agency from 1975 to 1982. In this capacity he served as the first ever Hispanic chief of a California State Agency.

In 1982 Mario was the first Hispanic citizen to mount a serious campaign for governor of California, despite losing he never lost his passion for justice and equality. He never tired of fighting for and advocating on behalf of the poor and underprivileged.

Mario successfully challenged discriminatory electoral systems and registered hundreds of thousands of Hispanic voters. He addressed candidates when they ignored issues affecting Latinos. Mario cried foul against Taco Bell in the late nineties, when it depicted a Chihuahua speaking with a stereotypical Mexican accent in national advertisements.

Mario along with fellow veteran Pete Tijerina, co-founded the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). Mario was responsible for MALDEF's litigation program, he organized legal seminars and disseminated legal information to the community. He lectured at colleges and universities and encouraged dialogue as a panelist at conferences and seminars.

Mario was co-founder of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations. He served as president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) from 1983 to 1985, was Chairman of the National Rainbow Coalition from 1988 to 1993, and also served on the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Commission.

Mario holds many honors and awards recognizing his contributions to the advancement of civil liberties for people of color. In 1973, he was awarded the National Urban Coalition Distinguished Urban Service Award. In 1985 he was given the Ohtli Award, Mexico's highest civilian award to a foreigner. In 1998, Mario was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. In 1999 he was awarded the National Hispanic Hero Award by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Madam Speaker, we join today to express our gratitude to Mario for his life work and philosophy. A belief in helping others, a love of community, and patriotism compelled him to lead a tremendous life of service. It is fitting, on such an occasion that we tribute Mario Obledo for the exceptional friendship and leadership that is his legacy.

COACH CHARLIE DAVIDSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Georgia's coaching greats, Charles V. "Charlie" Davidson. Coach Davidson spent his football coaching career as the head coach at Washington-Wilkes High School and at the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia.

From 1952 to 1970, Coach Davidson led the Washington-Wilkes Tigers football team to four state championships. During his career, he won more games than any coach in the history of both schools.

Coach Davidson's outstanding career includes 244 wins, 92 losses, and 14 ties. At the time of his retirement, he was the sixth winningest coach in the history of Georgia high school football. This impressive record earned him numerous honors and awards, including induction into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2005.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Davidson on his remarkable career and join Washington-Wilkes High School in honoring him as they dedicate Charlie Davidson Field at Tiger Stadium tomorrow evening.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Coach Charlie Davidson.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate a significant milestone in our national story, and to applaud the millions of tenacious, tough-minded American women who worked so hard to see it accomplished.

Ninety years ago, our nation ratified the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote all across the country. This was an achievement that was years, even centuries, in the making.

Even before our nation declared independence, the seeds of suffrage can be found in the letters of Abigail Adams, when she implored her husband John to "remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." Its roots took hold at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, where antebellum reformers argued that "all men and women are created equal" and, in the Declaration of Sentiments, first demanded the right to vote. And the movement had begun to flower as early as 1869, when Wyoming became the first American territory to grant women the vote.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, committed reformers such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, and Susan B. Anthony kept the passion for women's suffrage burning in the American imagination. And in the early decades of the twentieth century, a new generation of progressive reformers kindled this flame into a wildfire. Thanks to